

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) A valve solenoid comprising: a housing having a first part and a second part and which can be employed in areas endangered by explosion; a coil; an iron circuit, the coil and the iron circuit being arranged in the housing; a casting compound introduced into the first part of the housing so as to embed the coil and the iron circuit so that the casting compound prevents an explosive atmosphere from reaching live parts and simultaneously fixes the coil and iron circuitry and provides electrical insulation, the coil having connecting elements arranged internally in the second housing part which is configured to resist explosion pressure in case of an internal explosion and prevents transmission of the explosion to the environment thereby providing explosion pressure-resistant encapsulation of the connecting elements; and a cap arranged on an end of the second housing part so as to close the housing, the cap having a protrusion that engages in a complimentary end ~~face~~ opening in the housing so that a predetermined length of the protrusion extends into and overlaps the opening so as to form a gap between the protrusion and a surface of the opening which is secure against ignition penetration.